

CLAIMS:

1. A dual mode telephone, comprising:
a telephone adapted to switch between a standard telephone mode and an Internet Protocol (IP) telephone mode, wherein the standard telephone mode comprises a standard telephone adapted to transmit and receive an audio signal over a standard telephone network, and wherein the IP telephone mode comprises an IP telephone adapted to convert the audio signal to an IP packet and transmit the IP packet over a communication link to a network.
2. The dual mode telephone of claim 1, wherein the IP telephone is adapted to receive a second IP packet from the network and convert the second IP packet to a second audio signal.
3. The dual mode telephone of claim 2, wherein the dual mode telephone comprising the IP telephone is adapted to transmit the IP packet over the network to a second dual mode telephone comprising a second IP telephone, wherein the second IP telephone is adapted to receive the IP packet and convert the IP packet to the audio signal, and wherein the second IP telephone is adapted to convert the second audio signal to the second IP packet and transmit the second IP packet over the network.
4. The dual mode telephone of claim 2, wherein the dual mode telephone comprising the IP telephone is adapted to transmit the IP packet over the network to a computing device, and wherein the IP telephone is adapted to receive the second IP packet from the computing device.
5. The dual mode telephone of claim 4, wherein the computing device is selected from the group consisting of a computer, a portable web browser, and a personal digital assistant (PDA).
6. The dual mode telephone of claim 1, wherein the dual mode telephone comprising the IP telephone is adapted to transmit the IP packet over the network, wherein the network further comprises an IP voice gateway, and wherein the IP voice gateway is adapted to

convert the IP packet to the audio signal and transmit the audio signal to a standard telephone.

7. The dual mode telephone of claim 1, wherein the communication link is a wireless communication link.

8. The dual mode telephone of claim 1, wherein the IP telephone is adapted to accept an alpha/numeric input.

9. The dual mode telephone of claim 8, wherein the alpha/numeric input is an IP address.

10. The dual mode telephone of claim 8, wherein the alpha/numeric input is a telephone number.

11. The dual mode telephone of claim 1, wherein the IP telephone comprises a Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)/IP stack.

12. The dual mode telephone of claim 1, wherein the switching between the standard telephone mode and the Internet Protocol telephone mode is determined by a handshaking process.

13. A method comprising:
providing a dual mode telephone comprising a standard telephone mode and an Internet Protocol (IP) telephone mode, wherein the standard telephone mode comprises a standard telephone, and wherein the IP telephone mode comprises an IP telephone ;
switching the dual mode telephone to the IP telephone;
converting, by the IP telephone, an audio signal to an IP packet ; and
transmitting the IP packet over a communication link to a network.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising receiving by the dual mode telephone a second IP packet from the network and converting the second IP packet to a second audio signal.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the IP packet is adapted to be received by a second dual mode telephone from the network and converted by the second dual mode telephone to an audio signal.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein a second audio signal is adapted to be converted by the second dual mode telephone to a second IP packet, and wherein the second IP packet is adapted to be transmitted to the network.
17. The method of claim 16, further comprising receiving by the dual mode telephone the second IP packet from the network and converting the second IP packet to the second audio signal.
18. The method of claim 13, further comprising transmitting the IP packet over the network, wherein the network further comprises an IP voice gateway adapted to; convert the IP packet to the audio signal; and transmit the audio signal to a standard telephone.
19. The method of claim 14, further comprising transmitting the IP packet over the network to a computing device.
20. The method of claim 19, further comprising receiving by the dual mode telephone the second IP packet from the computing device.
21. The method of claim 19, wherein the computing device is selected from the group consisting of a computer, a portable web browser, and a personal digital assistant (PDA).
22. The method of claim 13, further comprising determining the switching by a handshaking process.
23. A method comprising:
providing a dual mode telephone comprising a standard telephone mode and an Internet Protocol (IP) telephone mode, wherein the standard telephone mode comprises a standard telephone, and wherein the IP telephone mode comprises an IP telephone;

switching the dual mode telephone to the standard telephone; and
transmitting and receiving by the standard telephone, an audio signal over a standard
telephone network.